

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending. In the present Amendment, Claims 4, 5, 8, 9-14, 17-23, and 25-33 are amended for the reasons discussed below and Claims 1-3, 15-16, and 24 are cancelled without prejudice, thereby leaving Claims 6, 7, and 34-42 unchanged.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 34-42 and the Examiner's indication that Claims 4-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 26, 28-30, 32, and 33 include allowable subject matter.

Allowable Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, newly-independent Claim 4 is allowable.

Allowable Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly newly independent Claim 5 is allowable. Claims 6-14 depend from allowable independent Claim 5 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Claims 9 and 25 have been amended to remove minor typographical errors.

Allowable Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly newly independent Claim 17 is allowable. Claims 18-22 depend from allowable independent Claim 17 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Allowable Claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, newly-independent Claim 23 is allowable.

Allowable Claim 28 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly newly independent Claim 28 is allowable. Claims 25-27 and 29-33 depend from allowable independent Claim 28 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

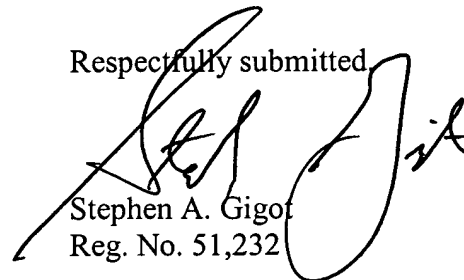
Claims 1-3, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, 24, 25, 27, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,795,314 ("Arbogast"). Without prejudice, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-3, 15, 16, and 24 and have amended Claims 8-14, 18-22, and

25-27 and 29-33 to depend from allowable independent Claims 5, 17, and 28, respectively, rendering these rejections moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections and reserve the right to re-present the rejected claims and to address the Examiner's rejections in a continuation patent application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and allowance of Claims 4-14, 17-23, and 25-33, in addition to previously allowed Claims 34-42.

Respectfully submitted



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